



**BLM** news  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

BURNS DISTRICT 28910 HWY 20 WEST HINES, OR 97738 (541) 573-4400 [www.or.blm.gov/burns/](http://www.or.blm.gov/burns/)

Release No.: 02-29

Contact:

Tara Wilson  
541 573-4400

October 18, 2002

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**STEENS MOUNTAIN ADVISORY COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS APPROVED**

U. S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Burns District Manager Tom Dyer reports the most recent group of Steens Mountain Advisory Council (SMAC) appointments and reappointments has been approved by Gale Norton, Secretary of the Interior, effective October 16, 2002. The new members, as well as those currently serving on the SMAC will advise the BLM on issues and decisions regarding the 500,000-acre Steens Mountain Cooperative Management and Protection Area (CMPA) in southeastern Oregon.

The following members were reappointed to three-year terms: Alice Elshoff, local environmental representative; Hoyt Wilson, grazing permittee representative; E. Ron Harding, wild horse representative. Also appointed to a three-year term, but new to the SMAC is Michael Golden of Redmond, dispersed recreation representative. Another new addition to the SMAC is Richard Benner of Portland, appointed to a two-year term as the no financial interest representative.

With the new appointments, the following 12 representatives will be serving on the council:

Richard Benner-No Financial Interest  
Stacie Davies-Grazing Permittee  
Alice Elshoff-Local Environmental  
Michael Golden-Dispersed Recreation  
E. Ron Harding-Wild Horses  
Tom Harris (Chair)-Mechanized or Consumptive Recreation  
Wanda Johnson-Burns Paiute Tribe  
Jason Miner-Fish and Recreational Fishing  
Jerry Sutherland (Vice-Chair)-State Environmental  
Hoyt Wilson-Grazing Permittee  
Cynthia Witzel-Recreational Permit Holder  
Harland Yriarte-Private Landowner

#####MORE#####

Pursuant to the Steens Mountain Cooperative Management and Protection Act of 2000, the SMAC was established “To provide representative counsel and advice to the BLM regarding (1) new and unique approaches to management of the land within the boundary of the CMPA, (2) cooperative programs and incentives for landscape management that meet human needs and maintain and improve the ecological and economic integrity of the area, and (3) preparation and implementation of a management plan for the CMPA.

Since its formation, the SMAC has been working on numerous issues, including transportation, inholder access, recreation and visitor use, historical and reasonable use, various Environmental Assessments, and the Andrews/Steens Mountain Resource Management Plan (RMP). Some of the formal SMAC recommendations made to the BLM State Director regard wild horse gathers, Burns Paiute Tribal concerns, project funding, historic use, and recreation monitoring systems. As the SMAC continues to meet and discuss issues within the CMPA, more accomplishments and recommendations will develop.

The next meeting of the SMAC is scheduled for Monday, October 21, 2002 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and Tuesday, October 22, from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn Express, 20615 Grandview Drive, Bend, Oregon.

**For more information on the SMAC or the upcoming meeting, contact Rhonda Karges at the BLM Burns District Office at 28910 Highway 20 West, Hines, Oregon or call (541) 573-4400, weekdays between 7:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. You may also check the SMAC website at <[www.or.blm.gov/Steens/smac/smac\\_index.htm](http://www.or.blm.gov/Steens/smac/smac_index.htm)>.**

#####BLM#####